



**Montana  
Office of Public Instruction**  
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

**opi.mt.gov**

**Office of Public Instruction**  
P.O. Box 202501  
Helena, MT, 59620-2501  
(406) 444-3095  
(888) 231-9393  
(406) 444-0169 (TTY)  
**opi.mt.gov**

TO: MBI School Teams

FROM: Susan Bailey-Anderson Mary Ellen Earnhardt  
MBI Coordinator Gifted and Talented Coordinator

RE: MBI, Character Education and Learn and Serve Youth Days

DATE: August 2011

"You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you." **John Wooden**

**Greetings! Effective school change requires wide stakeholder participation. As we have seen with the Million Voice Survey, "When students have high aspirations, they have the ability to dream about the future, while being inspired in the present to reach those dreams." It only takes one person to change the world.**

An invitation is extended to you and your middle school and high school students to participate with the MBI, Character Education and Service-Learning Youth Days for 2011 – 2012. On Sunday, we will begin at 2:00 p.m. and conclude by 8:00 p.m. On Monday, we will begin at 7:45 a.m. and conclude by 2:00 p.m. A meal will be served on Sunday evening and a morning snack and lunch on Monday. Your school will be reimbursed for travel, lodging (if you should need it) and per diem at the current state rates. Following are the dates and locations:

Miles City – September 25 – 26  
Missoula – October 16 – 17  
Great Falls – November 6-7  
Bozeman – November 13-14  
Billings – December 4-5

Clayton Small, Ph.D., will be working with the participants to inspire and challenge the youth in the areas of leadership and team building. He is the lead trainer of Native P.R.I.D.E., with many years of experience working in Indian Country. The P.R.I.D.E. is an American Indian nonprofit organization that offers outstanding culture-based programs that focus on prevention, wellness and leadership development. As well, we will be doing many team-building activities, activities intermingling with other students/schools, an action plan for you to take home for service learning and a personality test to demonstrate the strong qualities each of us possesses, and to help us find the values of the people we are working with.

Youth Days have positively impacted schools across Montana. Schools report back yearly concerning their community service-learning projects they have started at their schools. From encouraging reading in Brockton, to the building of a school science garden representing native Montanan flora in Boulder, or the creation of a community workout gym in Belt to Sacajawea Middle School in Bozeman helping out at the community nursing home, our Montana Youth are making a difference!

This year, Youth Days will feature **Service-Learning Projects** on Monday morning. Please come prepared to work and dress for the weather. Some sites will be outside. The service-learning sites will be assigned to you and your students at registration. Another feature will be a **Poster Session** which will be used to introduce your school and service-learning/MBI projects conducted in the past year. Tell something about your school, your team, service, learning, etc. Tables will be available for each school site, and the display may be poster boards or other types of media. Please indicate on the Registration/RSVP form if you will need a table for the poster display; additionally, you will need to bring several items to give away for **prizes**. The **Coat and Food Drive**, sponsored by the Governor's Office, is another attraction. This was a very successful event in the past several years. Please bring clean and gently used coats to the Youth Days locations so they can be taken to collection sites and distributed to families and individuals in need. We are also encouraging Youth Days participants to gather non-perishable food items that will

*The Montana Office of Public Instruction provides vision, advocacy, support, and leadership for schools and communities to ensure that all students meet today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.*

be donated to local food banks when the teams visit and volunteer. Help us to help others in need.

We are requesting that you and your team search and find specific areas in your community which could become service-learning projects for your school. If you need some ideas, good places to search include the chamber of commerce, the mayor's office, the ministerial association, or the local food bank. Our goal is to send you home with a specific project and some specific steps to completing that project.

## **REGISTRATION**

Please plan to attend this event and bring up to 10-12 participants. This includes both students and staff. In selecting students, please include a broad spectrum of your student population, including student leaders and future student leaders. A cross section of your student population would be ideal in promoting diverse ideas and thoughts. Please complete the attached Registration/RSVP form indicating the number and names of both students and staff who will be attending. This is important to adequately plan for meals and/or other activities.

Please return the following forms to Susan Bailey-Anderson, PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501; Fax 406-444-3924.

- ✓ RSVP/REGISTRATION
- ✓ PERMISSION FORM—This is particularly important so that we may use the student's pictures and possible videos we may film during this time.

When the RSVP/Registration Form is received at the OPI, you will receive a confirmation letter with detailed information regarding sites and lodging.

For questions, please call me at (406) 444-2046 or e-mail [sbanderson@mt.gov](mailto:sbanderson@mt.gov).

Attachments

## **CHECKLIST FOR ITEMS TO BRING TO YOUTH DAYS**

- **Students**
- **Coats/Food**
- **Prizes**
- **Items for Poster Session**